years towards the cost of constructions for additional space in the court room and Rs.4.8 lakh per court per year towards recurring expenditure.

(c) A grant of Rs. 3570.70 lakh has already been released to the Government of Gujarat during the period of extension of the scheme from the year 2005-06 to 2008-09. The grant has been released as per the norms of the existing scheme and there is no such proposal to reimburse any excess amount that may have been incurred by the State Government.

Vacant posts of High Court judges

†934.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacant posts of judges in different High Courts in the country as on 31st December, 2007;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to fill up the said vacancies; and

(c) by when the vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) As per the existing procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice and other Judges of the High Court, the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court is to initiate the proposal for appointment of Judges. The Government has been urging the Chief Justices to take steps for initiating the proposals in time for filling up the vacancies. No time frame has been fixed for filling up the vacant posts.

Statement

Approved strength and vacancies of judges in various High Courts of the country

S. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved strength as on 31.12.2007	Vacancies as on 31.12.2007
1	2	3	4
1	Allahabad	160	89
2	Andhra Pradesh	49	19
3	Bombay	75	24
4	Calcutta	58	17
5	Chhattisgarh	18	12
6	Delhi	48	16
7	Gauhati	26	03
8	Gujarat	42	11
9	Himachal Pradesh	11	02

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

1	2	3	4
10	Jammu & Kashmir	14	05
11	Jharkhand	20	11
12	Karnataka	41	06
13	Kerala	38	12
14	Madhya Pradesh	43	02
15	Madras	49	04
16	Orissa	22	05
17	Patna	43	14
18	Punjab & Haryana	68	26
19	Rajasthan	40	05
20	Sikkim	3	01
21	Uttarakhand	9	0
	TOTAL :	877	284

Special Fast Track Courts for riot cases

935. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court of India has suggested for setting up of special Fast Track Courts for riot cases to ensure speedy justice; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Fast Track Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per the information received from the Registry of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court has not suggested constitution of Special Fast Track Courts for riot cases.

Illegal mining

†936.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal mining in many States has increased rapidly;

(b) if so, the names of those States and since when;

(c) whether Central and State Governments are jointly arranging to stop this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) There is an increase in the number of cases of illegal mining detected in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi